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From the Office of Indiana Attorney General
Steve Carter

Hoosiers Get Second Chance to Stand up for Do-Not Call

Agency seeks more public comment on requests by banks that would water-down law

Indianapolis – Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter is urging Hoosiers to take a new opportunity to speak out against the effort to weaken the state's Do Not Call law. Following a request by Carter, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced it will again be accepting public comments on the Consumer Bankers Association's (CBA) petition filed with the agency by the national trade association of banks.

The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA) is asking the FCC to permit more unwanted telemarketing calls to people by allowing businesses to contact previous customers even though they may be registered on the state's Do Not Call list limiting such sales calls.

"This is one more chance to help keep Indiana's tough telephone privacy law in place," Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter said. "Many people may not have realized that the FCC sought comments from the public during a brief period around the holidays. More than 3.6 million people benefiting from the law have a right to be heard; now is the opportunity."

Indiana Congressman Steve Buyer (IN-04) has been instrumental in defending Indiana's law with the federal agency. Earlier this year, Buyer led several Hoosier members of Congress in sending a letter on to the FCC urging the Commission to deny the CBA's petition.

"Indiana's Do Not Call law permits a level of security that is unseen in most states, and this should remain so. I will continue to work to ensure that Hoosiers are protected from unwanted calls," Buyer added.

The CBA's petition seeks to allow existing business relationships sales calls that could result in an additional 800 million more unwanted calls to registrants over a year and half time period. This is based on the conservative assumption that a household is making just one transaction per day.

The FCC is seeking public comment on the petition until **July 29, 2005**. Comments can be made electronically at http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi. The document number to enter is 02-278. There are instructions and links to make a comment also on the SaveDoNotCall.com website.

"Anytime the privacy rights of millions of Hoosier's are threatened, they deserve the opportunity to voice their opinion," Carter said. "More than 50 mayors, the Indiana congressional delegation, and the Indiana General Assembly have stood up for the Do Not Call law. But it's still essential that the public come forward and express its desire to the FCC that the law isn't broken and shouldn't be watered down."

There are nine out-of-state banks doing business in Indiana that are part of this petition to make sales calls to registrants of the Do Not Call registry. **Those banks are: Bank One, Fifth Third, Huntington, KeyBank, National City, PNC, Stock Yards, Regions & Wells Fargo.** Consumers can also find more information about these banks along with a complete listing of the more than 200 banks that aren't part of the petition at www.SaveDoNotCall.com. Links and other contact information about the Save Do Not Call effort are provided on the website.